

EXHIBIT A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

RINALDIS et al.

Serial No.: 09/904,704

Filed: July 12, 2001

Atty. File No.: 4121-4

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
IMPROVED RAID 1 WRITE PERFORMANCE
IN LOW COST SYSTEMS

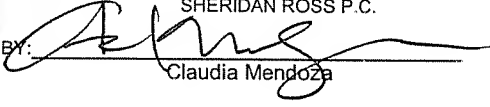
Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

) Group Art Unit: 2143

) Examiner: Jean Gilles, Jude

) Confirmation No.: 4760

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

<p>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION</p> <p>I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FACSIMILE TRANSMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE VIA FACSIMILE (571) 273-2885, ON : <u>APRIL 4, 2006.</u></p> <p>BY:  SHERIDAN ROSS P.C. Claudia Mendoza</p>

Dear Sir:

On March 2, 2006, the undersigned was contacted by the Examiner regarding suggested amendments to the claims. In particular, the Examiner suggested that the phrase "substantially simultaneously" be removed from the Claims, and further suggested that Claims 10 and 16 be amended to recite a multiplexer and its operations, in a manner similar to the recitation of original Claim 1. Accordingly, proposed Amendments were submitted to the Examiner by email on March 2, 2006. In a reply email from the Examiner dated March 3, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the Primary Examiner requested that the phrase "substantially simultaneously" be replaced, but not removed. As a result, a revised proposed Amendment was provided to the Examiner by email on March 4, 2006.

The revised proposed Amendment did not include the "substantially simultaneously" phrase in Claims 10 and 16. As noted in the cover email from the undersigned, Claims 10 and 16 are not believed to require that phrase in order to be allowable over the cited references.

In the Examiner's Amendment received with the Notice of Allowance papers mailed on March 15, 2006, the "substantially simultaneously" language deleted from Claims 1- and 16 as part of the revised proposed Amendments was left intact. During a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner held on March 30, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the Primary Examiner suggested that the "substantially simultaneously" language not be deleted from Claims 10 and 16. The undersigned requested that the deletions set forth on the revised proposed Amendments be included in the Examiner's Amendment.

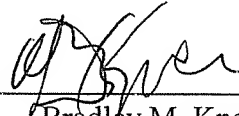
Serial No.: 09/904,704

The Examiner indicated that he would discuss the matter with the Primary Examiner, and contact the undersigned regarding the status of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: _____



Bradley M. Knepper

Registration No.: 44,189

1560 Broadway, Suite 1200

Denver, Colorado 80202-5141

(303) 863-9700

Date: _____

April 4, 2006

EXHIBIT B

Brad Knepper

From: Jean-Gilles, Jude [Jude.Jean-Gilles@USPTO.GOV]
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2006 11:07 AM
To: Brad Knepper
Subject: RE: 09/904,704 Proposed Amendment

Thanks you. I'll keep ou posted...

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Knepper [mailto:bknepper@sheridanross.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 04, 2006 12:05 PM
To: Jean-Gilles, Jude
Subject: RE: 09/904,704 Proposed Amendment

Examiner:

Thank you for your message. I have attached a Revised Proposed Amendment that includes the "substantially simimulataneously" phrase in Claim 1, with additional language modifying that phrase to explain that the arrival time is plus or minus propagation/processing delay.

Please note that I have not made a similar change to Claims 10 and 16- I believe those claims are definitely allowable, for at least the reason that they recite passing data read from the second storage device to both the transport master (via the mux) and to the transport slave in a failover mode.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss.

-Brad Knepper

From: Jean-Gilles, Jude [mailto:Jude.Jean-Gilles@USPTO.GOV]
Sent: Fri 3/3/2006 2:50 PM
To: Brad Knepper
Subject: RE: 09/904,704 Proposed Amendment

Brad:

After meeting with a Primary examiner who is working on the case with me, he advised that we the changes are fine, but the phrase substantially simultaneously must be replace, but not remove so that we do not broaden the scope of the allowed claims. Please send me the changes asap so that I can process with the allowance notice monday morning.

thank you

Jude Jean-Gilles
Patent examiner
Art unit 2143
tel 571-272-3914

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Knepper [mailto:bknepper@sheridanross.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2006 10:32 PM
To: Jean-Gilles, Jude
Subject: 09/904,704 Proposed Amendment

Examiner:

As we discussed, I have prepared propsed amended claims for the 09/904,704 application (see attached). Based on the uniqueness of the multiplexer arrangement, I do not see a need to keep the term "substantially simultaneously" in the claims. I have also made

changes to the other independent claims to incorporate the multiplexer features.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Thank you,
Brad Knepper